

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 17, 25, 26, 34, 41, 50, and 51 have been amended and claims 5, 11, 23-24, 29, 35, 47-49, and 52-53 are canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 18-22 and 42-46 were previously withdrawn. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17, 25-28, 30-34, 36-41, and 50-51 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 112**

In the Office Action mailed December 19, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1, 2, 25, and 26 have been amended responsive to these rejections. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome this rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

### **II. Cited Art**

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 7-10, 17, 23-26, 28, 31-34, 41, and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,298,441 to Handelman et al. ("Handelman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,667 to Duga et al. ("Duga"); claims 3, 27, and 49 as being unpatentable over Handelman in view of Duga and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,384 to Block et al.; claims 50-51 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,681 to Huffman et al. in view of Handelman and Duga; and claims 52-53 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,316 to Van Der Meer in view of Duga. It is noted that claims 1, 2, 4, 6,

10, 17, 25, 26, 34, 41, 50, and 51 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

### **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner allowed claims 12-16 and 36-40. The Examiner objected to claims 5-6, 11, 29-30, and 35 as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but noted that they contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5, which the Examiner indicates is allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited art. As claim 1 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 6-9, which depend from allowable claim 1, are therefore also allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 10, 17, and 50 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11, which the Examiner indicates is allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 10, 17, and 50, as amended, are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 25, 41, and 51 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 29, which the Examiner indicates is allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 25, 41, and 51, as amended, are allowable over the cited art. As claim 25 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 26-28 and 30-33, which depend from allowable claim 25, are therefore also allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 35, which the Examiner indicates is allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 34, as amended, is allowable over the cited art.

**CONCLUSION**

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into allowable form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, with reference to Attorney Docket No. 026680-00029.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arent Fox LLP



Sheree T. Rowe  
Registration No. 59,068

**Customer No. 004372**  
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Telephone No. (202) 715-8492  
Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395